

I support the removal of element 1 (code test) from those required to obtain an amateur radio license grades general and extra. Element 1 no longer serves any regulatory purpose now that the treaty obligation for it is now gone.

However I would keep a portion of the existing Morse code and data subbands so hams who choose to learn to use Morse code can do so. Also the FCC should grandfather existing "no-code" technicians to the same status as "tech plus" (would require minimal effort on the FCC's staff) and allow them access to the existing novice morse code subbands. People can learn the code by doing it on the "air". The reason for putting them in the novice subbands is to avoid cluttering up the code and data subbands with fumbling new users. But users should be able to get past this stage quickly enough to not be a problem for other users. Such exists now on the 2m and 6 m bands, a CW subband that no-code techs can use.